

#BXNFMXY  
#000029106119#  
SOUTHERN BAPT HISTORICAL  
901 COMMERCE ST STE 401  
NASHVILLE TN 37203-3620

CARRIER ROUTE  
005-DTM 6-11  
S0000

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL  
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES  
Nashville, Tennessee  
JUN 16 1998

THE BAPTIST

# Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

## Blue Mountain mission group visits Brazil

By Bonnie Hearon  
IMB Missionary to Brazil

Take 14 students from Blue Mountain College (BMC) during Spring Break, put them into a Rio de Janeiro slum, mix in a generous amount of God's grace, bake in over-100 degree temperatures, and what do you get?

Changed lives.

The 14 students from BMC, along with Baptist Student Union (BSU) Director Tracy Moser and her mother, Betty Simmons of Jackson, spent their Spring Break getting a tan, but not in the traditional way.

They spent their days walking up a hillside slum of Rio, making evangelistic visits with adults in homes, and sharing God's love with children in the slum. The temperatures in Rio reached 108 degrees during the week of March 6-13, while in Blue Mountain it was snowing and 16 degrees.

If the contrasts of weather, language, and culture were great, the similarities were greater.

The love of Christ was the main thing in common between the Brazilian host church and the American students. That, plus a Brazilian student named Marcia de Oliveira, who was the link from BMC to Rio de Janeiro, her hometown.

Marcia graduated from BMC in May and is planning to attend Southern Seminary. She helped to begin the work in the slum, working through her home church of First Baptist, Lins, in Rio de Janeiro.

The team was divided into pairs to stay in homes of Brazilian church members. Several Brazilian translators and guides partnered with the students in making evangelistic visits and working with children.

There were times, however, when no translators were around and some had to use sign language and dictionaries to get their point across in the homes where they were staying.

It is difficult to calculate the population

of a slum, called a "favela" in Portuguese. The entire metropolitan area of Rio de Janeiro and connected cities is 11-12 million. According to recent headlines in the Rio newspaper, "O Globo," some of the favelas are growing 50 times faster than other areas of the city.

The dangers of working in a Rio favela are many. At times gunshots can be heard, usually in connection with drug dealing. Southern Baptist missionary Bill Moseley was shot at in 1990 as he led out in the beginnings of the work there.



Tom and Bonnie Hearon, student workers for the state of Rio de Janeiro, were the International Mission Board missionaries who guided the group in orientation and helped them during the week.

Their daughters, Kimberly (age 14) and Charissa (age 11), helped as interpreters and stayed with members

of the team in Brazilian homes. Tom shared, "This group of students brought an enthusiasm and energy to the work that will continue to bear fruit long after they've left."

"We appreciate those who sacrificed to come here, and also those who helped them through financial means and prayer support."

The prayer support was evident. The group was able to endure overwhelmingly high temperatures without health problems during the week.

They experienced a Rio flood when it began to rain hard and the water from surrounding mountains rushed into the streets, turning them into virtual rivers.

They experienced God's protection in the favela, as well as in the notorious Rio traffic. They experienced God's power in overcoming language and cultural barriers as they shared testimonies and the plan of salvation.

Tracy Moser, BSU director, is a former BSU student of both Tom and Bonnie Hearon.

The Hearons worked simultaneously in the BSUs of William Carey College and the University of Southern Mississippi, both in Hattiesburg, and Tracy attended both schools.

"I think most of us left our hearts in Rio. It was so evident that God had gone before us (Deut. 31:8) and was empowering us to be his witnesses while we were there."

It was a blessing to share in worship with the Brazilians — their enthusiasm and zeal was a challenge to me personally," she said.

Back at Blue Mountain, it probably seems like a dream to the 16 who were in Brazil for Spring Break.

Now they are back in Mississippi weather, and concluding the semester's studies and college routine.

Perhaps the greatest evidence of their lives were how they were changed by the experience.

Here in Brazil, the evidence of their coming can be found in the new lives in Christ.

Who changed the most from the experience? Only time — and eternity — will tell.

### Expert offers Internet tips

GLORIETA, N.M. (ABP) — "The Internet may well prove to be the most important thing that has happened to the church since the invention of the printing press," said Jessie Palmer, co-founder and president of Details Communications in Birmingham, during the National Innovative Church Leadership Conference at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center.

Palmer offered eight marks of a great World Wide Web site:

- Customer or user centered
- A dynamic home page.
- Intuitive organization which makes it easy to use.
- Current, well written content, which is updated.
- Attractive, fast-loading graphics.
- Interactive features.
- Continuous creation, which means that it must be updated so that it looks different when people call a second or third time.
- Effective promotion, which increases its usefulness to church members and inquirers alike.

### Looking back

#### 10 years ago

Former national Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) president Helen Fling reports the WMU centennial celebration was divinely timed in response to the current Southern Baptist Convention controversy.

#### 20 years ago

Harry Denham Jr, pastor of First Church, Newton, is one of 15 pastors in the nation recognized at the SBC Pastor's Conference by the Sunday School Board for preaching. This is the second year for the preaching awards.

#### 50 years ago

After an extended illness, Margaret Lackey, age 90, passes away at her home in Jackson. Miss Lackey was the first full-time secretary of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union.

### WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

Tunica blitzed for Christ

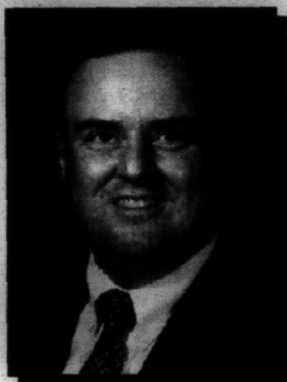
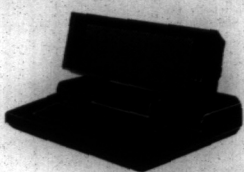
Miss. Baptists in Utah

Letters to the Editor

Ala. nurses visit Delta



## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



**William H.  
Perkins Jr.**  
Editor

EDITOR  
William H. Perkins Jr.

ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
Carl M. White

EDITORIAL ASSOCIATE  
Florence Larrimore

CIRCULATION MANAGER  
Renee Walley

BOOKKEEPER  
Betty Anne Bailey

LAYOUT/DESIGN  
Joylin Davis

ADVERTISING/PROOFREADER  
Debbie Sills

EDITORS EMERITI  
Don McGregor  
Guy Henderson

**Baptist Record** Advisory Committee:  
Bettye Coward, Clinton;  
Vickie Ford, Olive Branch;  
Larry Garner, Jackson;  
Bill Hardin, Picayune;  
Gary Richardson, West Point;  
Ernest Sadler, Pascagoula;  
Debbie Sills, secretary.

Postmaster: Send changes of address  
to **THE BAPTIST RECORD**, P.O. Box  
530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Send  
news, communication, and address  
changes to **The Editor, BAPTIST  
RECORD**, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS  
39205-0530 (601) 968-3800

VOLUME 122 NUMBER 19  
(ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4  
and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist  
Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street,  
Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$8.35 per  
year payable in advance. Economy plans  
available for cooperating Mississippi  
churches. Periodicals postage paid at  
Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State  
Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items —  
one calendar week prior to requested pub-  
lication date. Advertising — two calendar  
weeks prior to requested publication date.

# Everybody's All-American

**M**ississippi is well on its way to recording all-time high gambling revenues, state regulators confidently announced last week.

The predicted 10-figure totals being reported by the state's 30-plus casinos simply defy description, especially in light of the fact that the numbers are coming from what is otherwise described as the poorest state in the nation.

Casino owners are happy; their stock holdings are about to soar. State politicians are delighted; stratospheric tax revenues generated from legalized gambling make them look good at appropriations time.

We are told *ad nauseam* that the public is pleased with gambling, because the benefits are just too great — job growth at historical proportions, soaring real estate prices, stable government budgets, and on and on.

In our hopelessly admass culture, it's practically impossible to argue against legalized gambling from a financial standpoint. The glittering multi-acre casinos, complete with amusement parks and championship golf courses, bring in the people who bring in lots of cash.

Gambling promoters insist the fast-growing industry is a "win-win" situation for Mississippi. These are boom times, they say. You win, I win, we all win.

Only, we don't all win. For every gambling success story in the morning paper and on the evening news, behind the scenes and away from the bright lights there is a human toll that must be paid.

That's the dirty little fact from which we prefer to avert our eyes, but it's well past time we took a long, hard, dead-on look at the human cost of gambling.

Take haunting story of Art Shlichter, for example. He was profiled by sportscaster Bob Costas in a recent episode of Dateline NBC, the television network's prime time news videomagazine.

Art Shlichter was destined for greatness. Tall and handsome with piercing eyes and a

male-model jawline, he broke just about every high school football record a young athlete could break.

He went on to quarterback Ohio State University to a national championship in the early 1980's. He was a first-team All-American. He married the beautiful love of his life and they began to make plans for their family.

He was selected early in the National Football League (NFL) draft by the Indianapolis Colts, where his rookie year performance brought predictions of future induction into the NFL Hall of Fame.

Art Shlichter was the personification of the American success story, but almost no one knew his dark secret: a gambling habit rapidly spinning out of control, that would eventually cost him his NFL career, his friends, and, saddest of all, his family.

Shlichter was in deep. When his own money began to run out, he stole from others who trusted him — as much as \$500,000 in one year — to continue his gambling habit.

The Colts dropped him. A multitude of treatment programs failed. Even a stint in prison didn't deter; he immediately embezzled money from his new employer when he was released.

Having exhausted the good will of everyone who believed him as well as the justice system, Art Shlichter, Everybody's All-American, is now serving a sentence of 16 years as a repeat offender.

His long-suffering wife has filed for divorce so she and their two daughters can begin a new life without him.

"TWO YEARS AGO TODAY I  
DECIDED IT WOULDN'T HURT TO  
SKIP SUNDAY SCHOOL OCCASIONALLY."



The kid with an unlimited future now has virtually no future left, all his hopes and dreams dashed as he sits in prison because of one uncontrollable compulsion that consumed him and his loved ones.

Art Shlichter probably never visited Mississippi, but stories like his are easy to enough to document here in the buckle of the Bible Belt.

Mothers prostitute themselves for slot machine change. Fathers commit suicide before family members discover all has been lost. Children swelter, hungry and unwashed, in locked cars while their parents gamble in air-conditioned comfort.

Ah, but the money, always the money. The jobs. The real estate. That balances out all the human suffering, doesn't it?

I wonder if Art Shlichter would agree.

## GUEST OPINION:



### Take pornography seriously

Name withheld

**I** am a professional, a highly-visible member of my church and community. I have served as a deacon and as chairman of many civic committees. My remarkable wife (also a professional) is equally active in church and community, and my children are well-respected among both peers and adults.

All in all, I lead a model life with one exception. I am addicted to pornography.

Many people do not equate a pornography addiction on the same level as an alcohol or drug addiction. I want you to understand that pornography can destroy a person as surely and swiftly as any other addiction.

I know, because I have been to the edge.

My first exposure to pornography came in my early teen years, as it does for many American boys. Friends at school passed around dirty pictures, and I eventually came to possess my own small collection in much the same way young people "score" illegal drugs.

At the time, I was as titillated

by the forbidden nature of acquiring the pornography as I was by the actual photos. It's that way with alcohol and drugs at first, too.

By the time I was in college, however, I began to feel much more of a need for pornography. My heart raced when I bought it. I would tear through the magazines right then and there, unable to wait until I got home. I was hooked.

Pornography is expensive. More and more of my limited college funds were being consumed by my obsession. It continued after I graduated and got my first job. As with alcohol and drugs, I lived for the high — and I was requiring more

and more for the same high. Not only that, the pornography had to become more and more perverted for me to get the same pleasure from it.

I thought the conjugal nature of being married would relieve the pressure of the addiction. Instead, it wasn't long before I began expecting our sexual relations to be on a par with the X-rated action in the peep shows I continued to frequent.

That took a tremendous emotional toll on my wife, but I had to have my high. When she failed to satisfy me, I began to look elsewhere. Those "elsewheres" became more frequent.

As my demands kept increasing along with my con-

sumption of pornography, my wife was forced to take our small children and leave. I was devastated.

I spent many nights face down in the presence of God, pleading with him to return my family and deliver me from those terrible cravings for pornography.

Through the intervention of Christian friends and the limitless love of my wife, I entered Christian counseling. Giving up pornography was the hardest thing I will ever do, but I have been "clean and sober" for three years — the last one of those years reunited with my wife and family.

My purpose in writing this is the hope that people will begin to see pornography for what it is. God has allowed my heart to be broken with the understanding of how pornography exploits and destroys individuals and families.

Please, America, wake up! Start treating pornography for the extreme danger it poses, and maybe you can keep your young son from going down the same road I chose so long ago.



# Baptists "blitz" Tunica with ministries |

By Tim Nicholas  
MBCB Communications director

Tunica was blitzed for missions on May 29-June 1 with a tent revival, day camp, housing renovation, Bible distribution, senior adult rally, and health, basketball, and beauty clinics.



THE GOOD NEWS — S.A. "Sonny" Adkins, MBCB evangelism director, preaches under the tent during the Missions Blitz in Tunica. (Photos by Tim Nicholas)

The project, sponsored by North Delta Association in Clarksdale and the Equipping Team of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), resulted in at least 71 professions of faith plus new relationships generated among black and white participants.

Said M.C. Johnson, North Delta director of missions, "We are not promoting the Baptists... We want them to come to Christ."

The three-night tent revival featured the preaching of S.A. "Sonny" Adkins, MBCB director of evangelism. A number of volunteers provided music.

Health clinics were led in outlying areas on May 27 and 28 by a group of Alabama Baptist nurses. The Tunica clinic was led by Mississippi Baptist nurses.

The Alabama nurses saw about 70 patients each day. The Tunica clinic, which featured

glucose, blood pressure readings, eye exams, dental checks, and breast self-exams, had about 50 patients.

Volunteer coaches from area colleges and high schools led in the basketball clinics at Rosa Fort High School in Tunica for junior and senior high students. A total of 51 professions of faith were reported.

Several hundred Bibles were distributed, many with a verbal witness for Christ, among the townspeople on May 30-31 with invitations to the tent revival which attracted up to 300 by the third night.

The beauty clinic for teenage girls included a talk by Linda Harris of First Church, Tunica, who told

them that "God is always our friend whether we think we are beautiful or not."

A day camp took place under the revival tent on Saturday, May 30, led by volunteers from Jackson and Waynesboro.

The housing renovation brought in 74 volunteers who worked on six Tunica-area homes. Their work provided such repairs as a new roof, front porch, and bathroom-floor.

The volunteers also witnessed in the neighborhoods when not working on the houses.

The senior adult rally on June 1 attracted 218 black and white participants to the Tunica Development/Community Center, according to Glenn Shows of the MBCB Discipleship and Family Ministry department.

Also at the Tunica blitz;

♦ A magic show by John Bewley of Jackson.

♦ Music and testimony by Pam Bell of Bogalusa, La.

♦ Music and storytelling by Gwen Williams of New Orleans.

♦ A performance by the senior adult choir of Trinity Church, Southaven.

A total of 300 pounds of catfish was donated by area cat-



FIXING IT UP — Bobby Kennedy (on top step) of Wesson, leads teenagers in a home renovation in the Hollywood community near Tunica. The teens, from Strong Hope and First Church, Wesson, were among 74 volunteers who did repairs to six homes.

fish farmers with the trimmings donated by area merchants for lunch during the blitz.

Members of the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Unit cooked the catfish using their new mass feeding unit.

Shows and other organizers pointed to Tunica Presbyterian pastor Paul Husband, and to Rodney Hibbler of First

## THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

# THE BAPTIST Record

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

JUNE 11, 1998

VOL. 122

No. 19

Community Church, as instrumental in making the event work.

Follow up was planned in the area throughout the summer by Baptist and Presbyterian volunteers.

For more information on the Tunica blitz and other such events, contact the MBCB evangelism department at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.



BEAUTY LESSON — Teenage girls apply makeup during a beauty clinic at the Alpha Commission Christian Bookstore and beauty salon in Tunica.

## Miss. CP takes May dip

May gifts through the Cooperative Program (CP) totaled \$1,918,995, according to Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, which disburses the funds.

Giving for the first five months of the year total \$10,803,867, which is \$250,049, or 2.26%, less than that given for the same period in 1997. May giving in 1998 was also lower than that given in May of 1997 by \$152,909, or 7.4%.

However, giving in 1998 is ahead of CP budget needs by \$159,447, or 1.5%. This pro rata amount is figured by taking the total 1998 budget of \$25,546,608, dividing by 12, and multiplying by the number of months elapsed.

The CP helps fund the RA and GA camping programs at Central Hills Baptist Retreat near Kosciusko, and at Camp Garaywa in Clinton, respectively; and the Family Festival at Parkway Church, Clinton, June 27.

## SBC CP posts May decline

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Cooperative Program (CP) receipts for May declined more than 9% compared to the previous year's May, according to Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee.

For the fiscal year, Oct. 1, 1997 through May 31, 1998, SBC CP receipts dropped just under the same period in the previous fiscal year: \$104,076,805 compared to \$104,834,013 or a difference of \$757,208 or .72%.

For the month of May, the SBC received \$12,835,511 in gifts compared to May 1997 of \$14,014,953, a drop of \$1,179,441 or 8.42%.

For the SBC CP Allocation Budget, the May receipts were 3.94% above the required monthly budget figure of \$12,238,756, or \$486,755. For the year to date, the budget requirement of \$98,790,051 compares to receipts of \$104,076,805, an increase of \$5,286,753 or 5.35%.

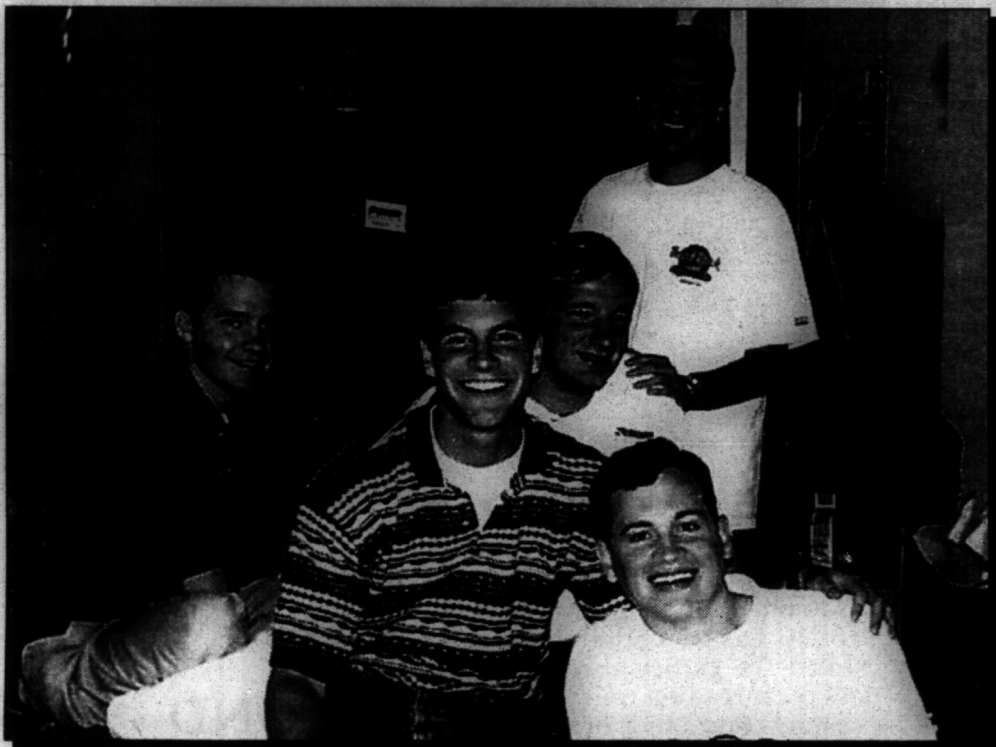




# Mississippians witness during Crossover

By Carl M. White  
Associate Editor

Under the shadow of beautiful snow-capped mountains Southern Baptists fanned out up and down the Great Salt Lake Valley for Crossover Salt Lake City, sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ to a Mormon-dominated population.



**WITNESSING IN UTAH** — Students from Mississippi colleges participating in Crossover Salt Lake City include (front row, from left) Bryan Daniels, recent graduate of Pearl River Community College in Poplarville and member of First Church, Poplarville; Bradley Baker, recent graduate of Blue Mountain College in Blue Mountain and member of Harmony Church, New Albany; (middle row, from left) Reggie Bridges, student at Blue Mountain College and member of First Church, Sault Ste. Marie; Mike Donovan, student at East Central and member of Stonewall Church, Mendenhall; (back row, from left) Derrick Simmons, student at Blue Mountain College and member of North Batesville Church, Batesville; Ryan Rodgers, student at Mississippi College and member of First Church, Pontotoc. (Photo by Carl M. White)

Many Mississippi Baptists were actively involved in the evangelistic effort. S. A. "Sonny" Adkins, director of the evangelism department for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), his wife Jean, along with Ed Deuschle, inter-faith consultant in the evangelism department and his wife Rita, were among the 150 volunteers at one crossover event sponsored by First Southern Baptist Church of Salt Lake City.

Over 450 area residents came to Riverside Park in northwestern Salt Lake City for a park party. Face painting, musical entertainment, food, and many other activities were conducted while Baptist volunteers witnessed one on one with anyone who would listen.

Deuschle reported having nine conversations with Mormon missionaries. One man was a former Mormon missionary who is now an attorney and advisor for a Utah congressman.

"He was real open to what I had to say, very talkative," Deuschle reported.

Nassau Bay Church of Houston, Texas, sent 23 people to work with First Southern Baptist Church in this effort.

According to David Fannin, pastor of the Texas church, this is part of a year-long

partnership between the two churches.

During the week prior to the park party, Nassau Bay volunteers conducted six backyard Bible Clubs and handed out over 7,000 invitations in the surrounding neighborhoods, Fannin said.

Even before the park party the Lord was working on people's lives, Fannin said. Several days earlier they were at First Southern Church preparing materials to hand out when a man walked in from the grocery store across the street.

"He said something had told him to walk over here, that he was sick and tired of the Latter Day Saint (LDS) life. He wanted to know if we could give him a Bible," Fannin said.

They led him to Christ and then sent him home with two extra Bibles. First Southern Church pastor Eric Frye reported that 75 people made professions of faith at the Saturday event.

"This has to be a real shot in the arm for this church," Deuschle said.

Also on Saturday, 15 Mississippi students were taking part in other crossover events across the valley.

Ryan Rodgers, a student at Mississippi College in Clinton, and Bradley Baker, a student at Blue Mountain College in Blue Mountain, went to Brigham City several miles north of Salt Lake City.

Their group saw three professions of faith while going door to door witnessing. They estimated over two thirds of the homes they visited were LDS. They also came across Catholics, Pentecostals, Baptists, and some unchurched.

"One girl was of Indian background," Rodgers said. "She was pagan, worshiping the seasons and nature. She made a profession of faith."

At another house a man told them that he was happy in the LDS faith. "He said he wanted to be a god, not sit in heaven and play a harp while worshiping God," he said.

Also going door to door were Reggie Bridges of Blue Mountain College and Mike Donovan of East Central Community College in Decatur. Bridges was in Roy, Utah, while Donovan visited in Ogden.

"Some of the Mormons were waiting for us," Bridges said. "At one house a lady asked us to come on in. She said her husband had been waiting on us to come by."

"We were counseled not to go into the houses, so we stood out front and talked."

They were prepared for our visits," Donovan agreed. "Many of their answers to us were real smooth, like they were prepared to respond to us."

At each house the students would ask if they had any prayer needs. "The LDS people would say no. It was like this was what they were told to tell us," Rodgers said.

"I shared the plan of salvation with a man who didn't go to church anywhere. His wife has multiple sclerosis. We prayed with him on the front porch."

"Then he invited us into the house to pray for her. So we gathered around her and prayed for her. She cried," Donovan said.

Despite the many closed doors, the efforts were not in vain. The students found many people hungry for the Gospel.

"One former LDS member who is not in church anymore said he could not believe in LDS doctrine — specifically, in a works salvation. He was real receptive to the Gospel," said Rodgers.

Derrick Simmons, a student at Blue Mountain College who also did door to door witnessing, told of the last house he visited on Saturday.

"The man was Catholic. He asked us who we were, and when we told him we were Baptists he said, 'You go get them. I've been living here for a long time and I'm tired of them knocking on my door.'"

"Another house we visited was a Baptist family. The man invited us in and was overjoyed to see us. His wife came down and offered us food and water. We were having a party," Simmons said.

The experience of going door to door to conduct block party evangelism in Utah has changed these students' perspective on life and ministry.

"An experience like this opens you up to the lostness of the world around you and the number of lost people there are in it," said Donovan.

Rodgers echoed that view. "I've seen that the world is still hungry, so very hungry for God. There are so many people doing so many things, like drugs and alcohol, but what they need is the Lord," he said.

Baker feels that as a result of this experience witnessing to someone back home will be easier. More than that, however, Baker said he gained a new appreciation for the power of God.

"God is still in control. He doesn't even need us out here, he just chooses to use us," he said. "I've learned that there is more to the world than Mississippi."

The students will continue in crossover evangelistic efforts through the end of the week, while most other events end with the beginning of convention-related events on Monday and the start of the convention on Tuesday.

For more information on Crossover events held each year in the host city of the Southern Baptist Convention, contact the MBCB evangelism department at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

## Plans underway for Family Festival '98 in Clinton

### FAMILY FESTIVAL '98

#### SCHEDULE

##### Senior Events

8:30 a.m. — 11:00 a.m.

##### Family Fair

11:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.

##### Adult Conferences

4:00 a.m. — 6:00 p.m.

##### Singles Events

7:30 p.m. — 11:00 p.m.

A festival for the entire family, for senior adults, and single adults is planned for Saturday, June 27, 1998 from 8:30 a.m.-11 p.m. at Parkway Church in Clinton. The day opens with a senior adult rally and conference. Featured will be John Bewley's magic show, the drama group from First Church, Aberdeen, the ukulele choir of Parkway Church, and former Mississippi Lt. Governor Evelyn Gandy.

An outdoor family fair from 11:00 a.m.-4 p.m. will include events and booths for all ages such as missions booths, clown and face painting, pony rides, children's games, and a youth corner with basketball shooting and cheerleading demonstrations.

An adult conference also begins at 4 p.m. and will include such topics as marriage, parenting, financial matters, and missions.

The evening features a singles event inside the

church with specialty conferences on subjects like divorce recovery and single parenting. A 9 p.m. singles rally features Matt Blagg and band, along with Michael Williams.

Childcare is provided free of charge during the adult conference from 4-6 p.m., and during the single adult events from 7:30 - 11 p.m.

Food booths are available for lunch. Vendors include Pizza Hut, Penn's, and Mr. Turkey Leg. The Brotherhood Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) will provide dinner from 6-7:00 p.m. at a cost of two dollars per person.

Admission is free.

Family Festival '98 is sponsored by the adult equipping team of the MBCB. For more information, contact Larry Salter or Glenn Shows at MBCB, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0520. Telephone (601) 968-3800, or toll-free outside of Jackson (800) 748-1651.



# Crossover sees professions in Salt Lake City



**PROCLAIMING CHRIST** — Ed Deuschle (right), interfaith witness consultant in the evangelism department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, shares the gospel with a Salt Lake City man at a Riverside Park party sponsored by First Southern Baptist Church of Salt Lake City as part of the Crossover evangelistic effort prior to the SBC. (Photos by Carl M. White)



**FACE PAINTING** — Lorie Vondrack (right), member of Southend Church of Salt Lake City, paints a child's face at the Riverside Park party sponsored by First Southern Baptist Church during the Crossover evangelistic effort prior to the SBC. Vondrack is a former US-2 volunteer with the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, headquartered in Atlanta.



**THE GOOD NEWS** — Jessie Caster (right), a volunteer from Hampstead Church in Baltimore, Md., shares a witness with Chris Bramer of Salt Lake City — one of 75 people who made decisions to accept Christ on Saturday during the Riverside Park party sponsored by First Southern Baptist Church during the Crossover evangelistic effort prior to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting.



**BLAST OFF!** — Jason Wright (left) of Atlanta pulls the rope to launch a plastic coke bottle rocket while Chuck Jones, member of First Southern Baptist Church in Salt Lake City does the countdown. Jones was one of the volunteers helping conduct the evangelistic party in Riverside Park in Salt Lake City as part of the Crossover evangelistic effort prior to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting.

## Man says VBS made difficult childhood bearable

**NEW ORLEANS (BP)** — One of Jay Alvaro's earliest childhood memories was a moment of utter desperation.

Sobbing and clinging tightly to the hem of his mother's dress, Alvaro desperately tried to prevent his mother from walking away. When she walked out, Alvaro was left standing with only the piece of her dress he had held so tightly in his hand.

Feeling utterly abandoned, Alvaro, together with his brother and three sisters, found himself in an orphanage in Springhill, Tenn.

His mother and father were gone. Soon he was separated from his siblings and the only thought in his mind was, "What have I done to cause all of this?" At age four Alvaro was alone, afraid, and not sure what his future would be.

The five years he spent in the orphanage were difficult times. At the age of seven, Alvaro experienced two life-changing events that forever altered his outlook on life.

Alvaro attended Vacation Bible School in a local church near the orphanage. It was there he came to know the Lord as his Savior. Making the decision to follow Christ would be the reason he was able to cope with what would happen to him a few months later.

That fall, he moved into the same dormitory where his older brother, Ricky, lived. It was here he encountered an abusive dorm matron who belittled and ridiculed every child in the dorm.

"I asked God, 'Why am I going through all of this?'" Alvaro said. "But God was saying, 'I'm here.' That's the only thing that helped me make it through."

At the age of 9, Alvaro and his brother and sisters were able to return home. Their mother eventually married a man who provided for the children and showed them love.

Over the years he has witnessed to all of his family, but he is not really sure where each stands in their commitment to Christ. "We have to accept the consequences of our

choices," he said. "We can choose God or the world. Satan's lies lead to destruction."

Today, Alvaro and his wife, Gina, and their two sons, John Jay and Christopher, live on the campus of New Orleans Seminary. Alvaro is a student in the doctor of philosophy degree program, specializing in psychology and counseling.

His life experiences are helping him in his role as a Christian counselor. Every day he tries to help people have stronger marriages and be better parents.

"God has us here for a reason and I want to serve him and magnify him," he said. "When I have a good day, I say, 'Thank you, Lord, for letting me ride along with you.'"

"I like playing in the game, but I always remember, God is the star."

"Someone cared enough to be my Vacation Bible School teacher and tell me about Jesus," he said.

"Just like the Ray Boltz song, I would like to say, 'Thank you.'"

## Boyd Shelter to be relocated

The four-laning of U.S. Highway 61 in Jefferson County is forcing the removal of the Baptist-owned Boyd Historical Shelter.

The shelter, named in honor of J.L. Boyd, an early Baptist historian, commemorates the general area where the first Baptist churches in Mississippi were established, according to Edward McMullan, executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission.

McMullan said the site will be replaced with a display similar to the displays used on the Natchez Trace Parkway.

New sites are being considered by members of a committee consisting of Talmadge Smith, director of missions for Copiah and Lincoln associations; Glenn Beasley, Hazlehurst layman; and Dale Little, director of missions for Adams and Union associations.

The group is negotiating with the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) in the relocation process. MDOT paid the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), which holds title to the land, a total of \$12,115 for the 1.012-acre site.

The MBCB Executive Committee, in a called meeting May 22, authorized Bill Causey, MBCB executive director-treasurer, to execute the deed for the land.

The called meeting took place just prior to the convening of the Executive Committee for an update on the search for a new executive director-treasurer to replace Causey, who has announced his retirement for the end of September.



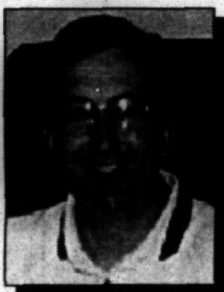
## BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS



WCC Department of Theatre and Communication

### Staff changes

First Church, Kosciusko, has called **Chris Webb** as minister of youth and activities effective May 17. Webb is a native of Laurel and a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was Calvary Church, Waynesboro.



Webb

The William Carey College Department of Theatre and Communication recently honored students at its 1998 awards dinner. Recipients are (front from left) Carrie Cartier, Saraland, Ala., Acting Achievement Award and the Doris Scheider Scholarship Award for accomplishment in technical theatre; Joseph Brack, Whitman, Mass., the first Robert Crumpton Memorial Theatre Scholarship; Roger Lott, Seminary, the Joe DeKalb Roberts Memorial Award, the premier recognition for speech and debate; James Mitchell, Hattiesburg, Most Valuable Member of the Serampore Players, an Acting Achievement Award and a technical award for set design in "The Traveling Lady;" Justin Bunton, Loranger, La., technical award for costume design of "The Traveling Lady;" (back from left) Kristi Kelley, Clinton, Joyce Quave Roberts Memorial Scholarship; Paul Lee, Milton, Fla., Obra L. Quave Theatre Award and an Acting Achievement Award; Kate Wheat, Carriere, Obra L. Quave Theatre Award; Jonathan Watts, McComb, Doris Scheider Scholarship Award for technical theatre;

Laura Lindsey, Pensacola, Fla., R. E. Cromis I Memorial Scholarship; Bree Houser, Naples, Fla., Acting Achievement Award; and Jennifer Coghlan, Laurel, an award of recognition for choreography of "Amelia Earhart." Not pictured, Jenifer Azulay, Ormand, Fla., Mark Wilkinson Memorial Scholarship.

Freshman orientation and registration for students enter-

ing William Carey College will be held Tuesday, June 23 on the Hattiesburg campus. Check-in begins at 8 a.m. in the Thomas Fine Arts Lobby. A complimentary lunch will be served at noon in the Wilkes Dining Hall, followed by advisement and registration in the Thomas Business Building at 1 p.m. Parents are encouraged to attend. For information contact the Enrollment Management Office at (601) 582-6208 or 800-962-5991, ext. 208.

William Carey College student **Drew Evans**, a senior double majoring in religion and history, was awarded the Alfred H. Nolle Scholarship from Alpha Chi National College Honor Scholarship Society. Evans, a Mississippi Beta chapter member, is from Mandaville, La. Alpha Chi awards this scholarship to ten members nationwide ranking in the top ten percent of their junior or senior class.

## Staying Well

### Volunteers: The Heart of Healthcare

When Oliver King reports to work at Baptist Medical Center, he's not looking for a paycheck. But once a week, King shows up to work at the information desk of Baptist's Medical Arts East Building. His workplace is located in a busy lobby, with patients for physicians going one way, and fitness center patrons going another.

But the twice-retired King doesn't mind being busy. As a member of Baptist's volunteer force, he's glad to do his part. "I like doing things for people - I just like people," King said. "I meet some of the most interesting people here and I love it!"

Like more than 150 others, King donates part of his time to helping out at Baptist. Together, they make up a small army of people who help fill vital niches in the hospital. Some, like King, help guide and direct people; others provide assistance to patients.

Dick and Valda Miller of Jackson started volunteering in Baptist's critical care unit waiting rooms after a heart attack nearly claimed Dick's life several years ago. "Because the Lord was good to spare Dick, this is our tribute to him," says Mrs. Miller. The Millers work every Saturday night, and report that while their work is a sacrifice, it's worth the investment of time.

Every day, Baptist volunteers deliver mail to patients; supervise waiting areas; help run the hospital gift shop; purchase and deliver newspapers for new parents; deliver magazines for patients; help patients read and write letters; help new parents remember to get their children immunized; provide company for lonely patients; create socks for cancer patients; and do a host of other jobs.

"Baptist couldn't get along without its volunteers," says Margaret Armstrong, Director of Volunteer Services. "Their spirit of giving and generosity is an inspiration to everyone who sees them." If you'd like to volunteer at Baptist, call the number listed below.

### Understanding the Benefits of Hospital Volunteer Service

Call 1-800-948-6262 for more information.

**Baptist**  
HEALTH SYSTEMS

© 1998 Baptist Health Systems

## REVIVAL DATES

**Harperville, Harperville:** June 21-25; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon. - Thurs., 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Bob Sanderson, director of missions, Newton and Scott Area Programs, evangelist; Randy Cuchens, Newton, and Tonja

Madison, Harperville, music; John Sharp, pastor.

**Bellevue (Pontotoc):** June 14-19; Sun., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon. - Fri., 7 p.m.; Winston Ross, guest speaker; Lamar Pickens, pastor.



New and Used Buses in stock  
Available in 12 to 43 passengers

### Church Buses

- We buy used buses
- Guaranteed buy-back program

**Carpenter Bus Sales, Inc.**  
Brentwood, Tenn.  
1-(800)-370-6180  
1-(615)-376-2287  
www.carpenterbus.com  
SINCE 1953



## JUST FOR THE RECORD

**First Church, Senatobia,** held a GA/Acteen Coronation service May 13.

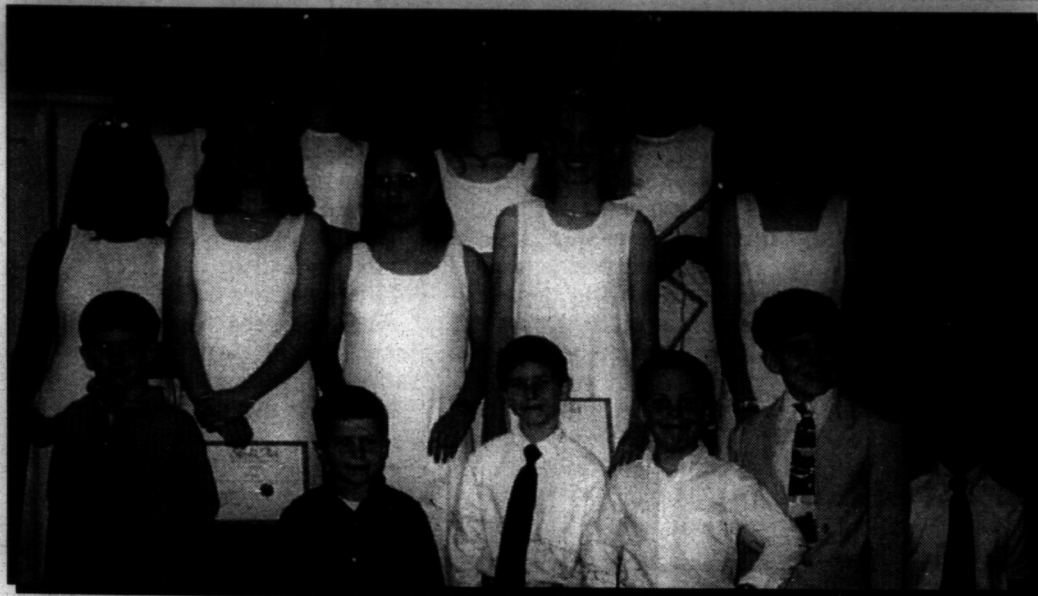
GAs are (front row) Hailey McNulty, Taylor Busby, Ashton Godbold, (second row) Kayla Adair, Lauren Fore, (third row) Samantha Holden, Mallory McGehee, Chelsea Bailey, Samantha Webb, Sara McCrary, (fourth row) Courtney Hale, Stephanie Coleman, Michel Jarjoura, (back row) Jamie Chapius, Meghan Alford, Summers Godbold, and Whitney May.

Escorts for Acteens grades 7-8 are (front row) Hewston Vancil, Dex Herrington, J. J. Gresham, Scott Share, Stephen Carter, Isaac Gresham. Acteens grades 7-8 are (second row) Carly Johnson, Beth Little, Olivia Lunceford, Carmen Dowdle, Margaret Lunceford, (back row) Katie Stigler, Ashley Byrd, Brittany Rowan, Emily Hale.

Acteens grades 9-12 are (front row) Alexis Dandridge, Camille Allen, Niki Abbott, Dana Marshall, escorts are (back row) Lee Powell, Tice Young, Matthew Flynn, and Brooks Oakley.

Emmy Jarjoura is director.

The children's choir at Bayou View Church, Gulfport, will present the musical "The Secret of My Success" on Sun., June 28 at 6 p.m.



Senatobia Acteens grades 7-8 with escorts



Senatobia GA's



Senatobia Acteens grades 9-12 with escorts

## NAMES IN THE NEWS

**Bayou View Church, Gulfport,** ordained **Guy Johnson** as deacon Sun., May 17. Johnson and his wife Tekla have two daughters, Sarah and Kristy.



Pickens and Russell

**Bellevue Church** (Pontotoc association), celebrated its 50th year Homecoming on May 17. Lamar Pickens (left), pastor, presented **Lillian Russell** with a plaque honoring her as a charter member with 50 years of faithful service.



Two students with Mississippi ties received doctoral degrees from New Orleans Seminary during commencement exercises May 15. Pictured are (from left) **Gary Richardson**, pastor, First Church, West Point, doctor of ministry degree with a specialization in pastoral ministry; **Chuck Kelley**, president; and **Russ Polson**, pastor, New Zion Church, Braxton, doctor of philosophy degree in church history and missions.

### ISRAEL JORDAN '99

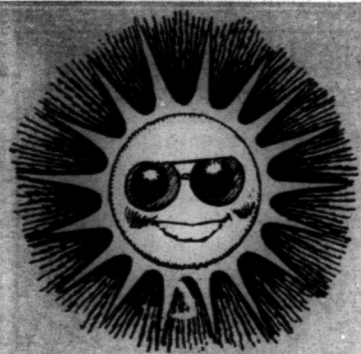
DEC. 29, 1998 - JAN. 9, 1999

◆ 12 Day Custom Travel with small group

◆ Experience Spiritual Renewal, Archaeological Discovery, Biblical Understanding

Contact Dr. Roger Greene, Professor of Religion, Mississippi College

(601) 925-3291 or (601) 924-5403



**SATURDAY, JUNE 27**

**8:30 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.**

**PARKWAY BAPTIST CHURCH**

**CLINTON, MS**

**(601) 924-9912**

## FAMILY FESTIVAL '98

This festival is designed to minister to the needs of:

- ◆ Senior Adults ◆ Married Adults ◆
- ◆ Single Adults ◆ Youth ◆ Children ◆
- ◆ Internationals ◆

Evelyn Gandy



Sam Gore



Matt Blagg



Robertson McQuilkin



John Bewley



### FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!!

Pony Rides  
Space Walk  
Storyteller  
Basketball Contest  
Cheerleading Demonstrations  
Clown/Face-Painting  
Dunking Booth  
Magic Show  
Missionaries' Booths  
Entertainment  
and much more!!

### ◆ Seniors Events

8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

### ◆ Lunch (food booths)

11:00 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

### ◆ Family Fair

11:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

### ◆ Adult Conferences

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

### ◆ Dinner (\$2.00)

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

### ◆ Singles Events

7:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

**FREE ADMISSION**

**FREE CHILD CARE**

For more information:  
Larry Salter or Glenn Shows  
(601) 968-3800 or (800) 748-1651





## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and notice will be printed to that effect.

### SEEKING PASTOR

Editor:

The International Baptist Church, a growing congregation of over 90 people located in Varcatur, Italy (near Naples) is in need of a pastor. The congregation is primarily comprised of people connected with the U.S. military and is English-speaking.

Our church is affiliated with the European Baptist Convention and is founded on the principles and doctrines of the Southern Baptist Convention.

If God is leading you to pastor in a mission setting, please contact:

Steven W. Woodson  
CTF63 PSC 817 Box 35  
FPO, AE 09622  
email: swwoodson@aol.com

### DRAW THE LINE

Editor:

I have many fond memories of Mississippi Baptists. I was raised in a Mississippi Baptist church where I was baptized in a Vacation Bible School recognition service, participated in Mission Friends, Royal Ambassadors and Bible Drill.

I received a bachelor's degree in religion from one of the nation's finest Baptist institutions, Mississippi College. I served Mississippi Baptists as a summer staffer at Central Hills Retreat and as a staff member of two Mississippi churches. I am proud to tell my colleagues in Texas that my roots are as a Mississippi Baptist.

Along with these memories I also take a great deal of pride in remembering Bill Causey's address at the 1992 Mississippi Baptist Convention.

In that sermon, Causey issued a challenge to Mississippi Baptists that has impacted me and continues to ring in my memory. I can still hear the repeated chorus of that

sermon: "Draw the line at the state line!" I can even remember the urgency in his voice indicating that he truly was stating his convictions.

In light of the recent announcement of Causey's retirement, I pray that Mississippi Baptists will not forget his earlier challenge to "Draw the line at the state line."

I also pray that the executive board will follow the Lord's leadership to the right individual who can steer Mississippi Baptists into a new era of "bringing Mississippi and the world to Jesus" without compromising the individuality of the state of Mississippi.

Thank you Mississippi Baptists, and thank you Bill Causey.

Andy Pittman  
Waco, Texas

### HELPING CADETS

Editor:

The Baptist Student Union at the United States Air Force Academy would like to contact the men and women coming to the Academy June 29 and 30 to begin training as basic cadets.

For those arriving June 29, we will meet them at the airport, provide free lodging, meals, and transportation, and take them to the Academy at the appointed time.

We would also like to meet those coming on June 30 and provide them transportation to the Academy. This is an opportunity to meet smiling faces and make new Christian friends before beginning basic cadet training.

If pastors, parents, relatives, friends, or new cadets will contact us with name, address, and telephone, we will correspond with them to secure flight arrival times and provide further information.

Please contact us at 550 W. Woodmen Rd, Colorado

Springs, CO 80919. Telephone: (719) 599-9094. E-mail: dgregory@KKTVCOM.

Also, for anyone attending West Point, the Naval Academy, or the Coast Guard Academy, similar ministries are provided.

At West Point contact Bill Blackwell, 29 Sheldon Dr, Cornwall-on-Hudson, NY 12518. Telephone: (914) 534-3944.

At the Naval Academy contact Tom Clemmons, 201 Hanover St, Annapolis, MD 2140. Telephone: (410) 263-0963.

At the Coast Guard Academy contact: Thom Thornton, 33 Perry St, New London, CT 06320. Telephone: (860) 437-1652.

Dwain Gregory  
Dir., Bapt. Student Ministries  
USAF Academy  
Colorado Springs, Co.

### TEACHING AS MINISTRY

Editor:

Why do we get a blank, stonewalling type of stare when we suggest that our Baptist colleges offer a dual degree in ministry which is their stated task, combined with one of the much-needed professional programs they offer?

Are we so steeped in tradition that we can't see the need for qualified schoolteachers in the poorer counties of

Mississippi as a huge potential for mission work?

I see the combined minister/schoolteacher degree as a near perfect fit for this current Mississippi problem.

Other professions or skills are also needed in communities where the existing churches are very weak.

Paul wrote, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase," and both of these great men supported themselves by secular work when it was necessary.

Where, in any Bible translation, can I find support for the ideal expressed by Paul as the only method acceptable in our modern churches?

Don Windham, pastor  
Ted Church, Bay Springs

### COMMENDS EDITORIAL

Editor:

Your editorial of May 28 ("What's so special about Sunday?") was great.

In my home state of Florida, we called Saturday "preparation day," which, of course, meant preparation for the Lord's day.

I asked my Sunday School class recently if they'd ever heard the expression. They hadn't, but that's, no doubt, due to the cultural difference more than anything else.

Keep up the good work!  
Vernon Sykes  
Yazoo City

### MS Positions Available

**WARREN/YAZOO BAPTIST ASSOCIATION** is accepting applications for the position of Director of Missions. Please send resume to: Warren/Yazoo Baptist Association, 3040 B Indiana Avenue, Vicksburg, MS 39180.

**PASTOR:** Eastside Baptist Church, Pelahatchie, MS. Send resume to: 146 Conger Dr., Pelahatchie, MS 39145.

**PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER:** University Baptist Church, 3200 West Arlington Loop, Hattiesburg, MS 39402.

Primary responsibilities are planning and implementing youth activities and ministries. Leadership of the youth music ministry is a possibility but not requirement. Interested women or men, 25 years of age or older, may mail a letter and resume to Personnel Committee. **MUSIC MINISTER:** Part-time Position available. Send resume to North McComb Baptist Church; 504 Laurel Street; McComb MS 39648-2932 or call (601) 684-5214.

### CLASSIFIED ADS

RATE: 50 cents per word, \$5 minimum. Cash with order except on contract advertising. Include name, address, zip code, and phone number in word count. No blind ads. Only written ads accepted.

**CHURCH BUSES! CHURCH BUSES! SUMMER TIME CHURCH BUS SALE!!** (1) 1997 Blue Bird EZ Loader 31 passenger coach WAS \$94,642, Now \$84,500. Great for weekend trips. Can send pictures and information. Also 1987 Blue Bird All American 48 passenger \$22,500, 1978 MCI 8 47 passenger \$26,500, 1992 Diamond 35 passenger \$26,500, 1994 Blue Bird Q Bus 45 passenger \$94,000, 1994 Goshen 28 passenger \$36,000, 1995 Goshen 28 passenger \$37,500. Call us and check out pricing on all of our new equipment. Call Harry Hosey at Transportation South, Inc. 205-663-2287 in Birmingham, or 800-367-9463. Call today!

**CHOIR ROBES & accessories,** pulpit/judicial robes, paraments. **MURPHY ROBES/Mac's Robes,** Charles McGlocklin, Authorized Dealer. Statewide 1-800-898-MACS.

**PASSENGER VANS FOR** private and church groups. From \$59.95 per day/ limited free miles/7 to 15-seat. Occasionally for sale: quality used

vans. Auto & Truck Rental, Jackson (601) 948-3391. Since 1965.

**YOUTH OUTINGS?** Paintball-games! Other functions! Curry Creek Outdoors. (601) 722-9000.

**ATTENTION! CHURCH BUSES FOR SALE:** New and Used available. Variety of makes and models. Free Quotes and Impeccable Service! Ultimate Bus Sales - Memphis, TN (901) 542-2600 or (901) 888-2600.

**NOTCH ESTATES-BRANSON, MO.** Condo near Silver Dollar City. 2BR, 2BA, sleeps 6. Stay 3 nights, 4th free; or 4 nights, 5th free. Free continental breakfast. \$105 daily. All visitors eligible for drawing to receive free 4 day return trip. Call (601) 746-4632.

**POSITION AVAILABLE:** Preschool/Children's Minister, Full-time. Church is located in suburb of Birmingham, AL with average attendance of 550. Send resumes to Personnel Work Team, Westwood Baptist Church, PO Box 1407, Alabaster, AL 35007.

**CFI - PEWS, NEW & used.** Baptistries, steeples, & stained glass, MS &

ALA. 1-800-830-0583.

**HOUSEPARENTS NEEDED** at the Arkansas Baptist Boys Ranch near Harrison, the Arkansas Baptist Home for Children in Monticello, and the Sonshine House Emergency Receiving Home for smaller children in Little Rock. Contact Charles Flynn at 1-501-376-4791 Ext. 5167 or write Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries, PO Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72701.

**LARGE CHURCH IN SOUTHEAST ARKANSAS SEEKING YOUTH MINISTER** to lead dynamic youth ministry of 157 enrolled youth. Please send resumes to the attention of The Youth Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 701 Main Street, Crossett, Arkansas 71635.

**VINEYARD LABORERS NEEDED!** Come plant seeds of "love, joy, peace...and self-control" and watch them grow in children's lives! Make a difference with your life. Come join our caring professional team - Florida Baptist Children's Home. Tallahassee needs a Christian couple without

children. Excellent pay and benefits. Call Doug McWhirter at (850) 878-1458 for information. Pray for us.

**HANDBELL DIRECTORS AND RINGERS:** Write or call for a FREE Brochure on new Handbell Music, Supplies, and Gifts. Bridgeway Press, PO Box 21863, Little Rock, AR 72221, or call our Toll-Free Order Line: 1-800-825-7243 (I.d.#81515)

**VACATION DREAM:** Cabin for rent in Smoky Mountains. Located only minutes from Dollywood, Pigeon Forge, and Gatlinburg Tennessee. Great for couples or families. Please call (601) 795-4614.

**CUSTOM STAINED GLASS** windows for churches and homes. Stained Glassworks, Inc. 1-800-605-2970.

**THE PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE** of First Baptist Church, Sherwood, Arkansas, is accepting resumes. Church has four full-time ministerial positions, averaging 375 in Sunday School, located in progressive suburban community near Little Rock. Send resumes to: Pastor Search Committee, PO Box 6268, Sherwood, AR 72124.

## Steeple & Baptistries

From the world's largest manufacturer of fiberglass church products

- Steeples
- Baptistries
- Lighted Wall Crosses
- "Krinkles"
- Windows
- Baptistry Heaters

Call or write for our free catalog

800-527-1459  
PO Box 1340  
Henderson, TX 75653-1340

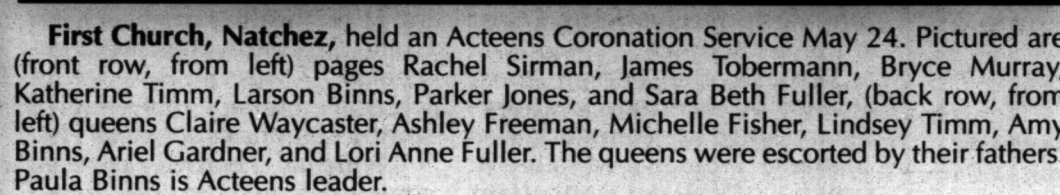
FIBERGLASS SPECIALTIES INCORPORATED



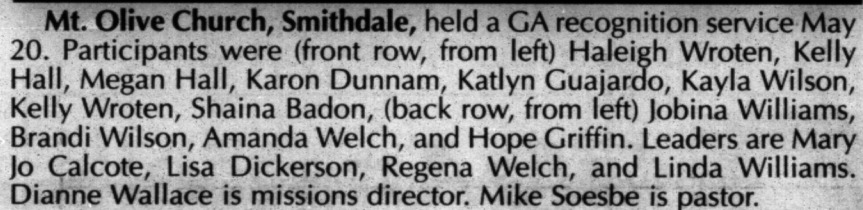
## JUST FOR THE RECORD

Phase I included needed maintenance and renovation efforts to the existing church structure, including the instal-

"Our church family is devoted, dedicated, and working tirelessly to carry out the vision and plan God has placed upon our heart," said John Pace, pastor. Walnut Grove Church was organized in 1847.



**First Church, Natchez**, held an Acteens Coronation Service May 24. Pictured are (front row, from left) pages Rachel Sirman, James Tobermann, Bryce Murray, Katherine Timm, Larson Binns, Parker Jones, and Sara Beth Fuller, (back row, from left) queens Claire Waycaster, Ashley Freeman, Michelle Fisher, Lindsey Timm, Amy Binns, Ariel Gardner, and Lori Anne Fuller. The queens were escorted by their fathers. Paula Binns is Acteens leader.



**Mt. Olive Church, Smithdale**, held a GA recognition service May 20. Participants were (front row, from left) Haleigh Wroten, Kelly Hall, Megan Hall, Karon Dunnam, Katlyn Guajardo, Kayla Wilson, Kelly Wroten, Shaina Badon, (back row, from left) Jobina Williams, Brandi Wilson, Amanda Welch, and Hope Griffin. Leaders are Mary Jo Calcote, Lisa Dickerson, Regena Welch, and Linda Williams. Dianne Wallace is missions director. Mike Soesbe is pastor.

is no charge for Fitness Center members, and a \$20 fee for non-members delivering at Baptist. For more information or to register call 968-1766.

**Sensitive Caring**, a support group for couples struggling with infertility, meets Thursday, June 18 at 6:00 p.m. at the Baptist Medical Center's Women's Center, 1405 North State Street. Pre-registration is required by noon, June 17. Call 948-6262 to register.

## VBS RESULTS

**Bethel Church, Coldwater,** held Vacation Bible School May 26-30 with an average attendance of 58. Three youth made professions of faith. Nell Wilson, VBS director. Roy C. Wilson, pastor.

## VBS DATES

**Macedonia, Meridian:** June 22-26; 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. for ages four years through sixth grade; Jason Gross, pastor. For information call 626-8107 or 626-8232.

**Lakeshore, Jackson:** June 15-19; 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. For more information call 373-6677.

**McLaurin First, Hattiesburg:**  
June 22-26; 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
for ages three years through  
youth. For more information call  
583-9274 or 583-9941.

**Mt. Zion, Osyka:** June 15-19;  
6:30-8:30 p.m. daily for nursery  
through 18 years.

**Short Creek (Yazoo):** June 13; 9 a.m.-5 p.m. for preschool through grade 12. For more information call 746-8623.

**Cedar Grove, Columbia:** June 22-26; 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. for ages two through adult; commencement service, June 28, 6 p.m.

**Byram, Byram:** June 13; 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; space jump, games, refreshments, hamburger meal, \$2; June 14-18; 6:30-9 p.m.; worship, Bible stories, games, crafts, music, refreshments; June 19; 6:30 p.m.; family night, worship, sharing fellowship. For more information call 372-5886 or 373-2422. Roy Maine, pastor.

**Looney's** New Shows!  
Amphitheater & Park  
ALABAMA'S OFFICIAL  
OUTDOOR MUSICAL DRAMA  
10th Anniversary  
Northwest Alabama

**Outdoor Civil War Drama**  
**Coca-Cola Concert Series**  
**Riverboat Rides**  
**Indoor Music Theater**  
**Miniature Golf**  
**Restaurant • Gift Shop**  
**(205) 489-5000**

7 miles east of Double Springs and 29 miles west of Cullman on  
US Highway 278

**EXCITING CAREER IN CHRISTIAN RETAILING**

Excellent salary and benefits package available. Relocation will be required to one of over 70 book stores. Qualifications include: four-year college degree or comparable business management experience, outstanding leadership, computer skills, strong vision for the future and an active role in a Southern Baptist church.

**Send resume to:**  
RETAIL STORE OPERATIONS  
MANAGER TRAINING SEARCH  
127 NINTH AVENUE, NORTH  
MSN 165  
NASHVILLE, TN 37234-0165  
OR FAX TO (615) 251-3622

**BAPTIST BOOK STORES**  
**LIFEWAY CHRISTIAN STORES**

owned and operated by the Sunday School  
Board of the Southern Baptist Convention

**Bowlin (Pontotoc):** June 14; 11 a.m. service followed by lunch; Bobby Waggoner, director of missions, Attala, guest speaker.

DALLAS (BP) — Employees of the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention bled a lot in 1997. As a result, the board has received three awards from Carter BloodCare, the Tarrant and Dallas County Blood Bank. The board received three engraved crystal awards, including the first place award as "most improved business" in the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex for its growth from 51 units donated in 1996 to 200 in 1997. In addition, honors were received for being a "four seasons" donation point that receives donations four times each year. Finally, an award recognized the board for giving a total number of units that exceeded 50% of the employee base.



# Baptist nurses witness in Mississippi Delta

By Bob Murdaugh  
Ala. Woman's Missionary Union

Tupelo resident Jackie Verell was part of a team of 37 volunteers from Mississippi, South Carolina, Alabama, and Louisiana, who conducted health fairs in northwestern Mississippi — the Delta — on May 27-30.

Though the volunteers represented a wide variety of medical and non-medical professions, a uniting factor was their common concern for other's physical and spiritual well-being.

That common concern resulted in over eight visitors praying to receive Jesus Christ at the health fairs.

Perhaps the person most amazed by the group's extraordinary spirit of teamwork was Alabama Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) consultant Barbara Owen, who coordinated the coed team's volunteer work as the first mission trip of the re-established Alabama Baptist Nursing Fellowship.

"God knew exactly what skills we needed to meet the variety of needs of visitors," Owen said.

"In addition to registered nurses and other medical professionals, we had school teachers, pastors, pastor's wives, directors of missions' wives, an MK (missionary kid), college professors, college students, and even a turkey farmer.

"They proved that Christian love makes it possible for women and men of all walks of life to serve God together," she pointed out.

During four days of health fairs, the medical professionals checked each of the 300-plus visitor's blood pressure, sight, hearing, cholesterol level, and blood sugar level.

Verell and other non-medical volunteers roamed neighborhoods to invite people to the health fair.

Many of the nurses said, however, that the most valuable

duty at the health fairs was to emphasize good spiritual health.

They often partnered with non-medical volunteers to ask visitors about their relationships with God and to introduce them to Jesus Christ whenever possible.

The health fairs were part of the Mississippi River Ministry, in conjunction with the North Delta Baptist Association based in Clarksdale.

North Delta Association director of missions M.C. Johnson secured sites for the health fairs and led the volunteers in morning devotions.

One of the nurses volunteering at the health fairs was Kitty Gute of Decatur, Ala. She commented, "I was impressed with Johnson's urgency that we give spiritual emphasis above all else.

"Spiritual health is an area sometimes lost on the home and foreign mission fields as nurses get so caught up in meeting physical needs," said Gute, a missionary nurse in Guatemala for 38 years.

She has been on inactive status as a nurse since 1989.

"This mission trip to the Mississippi Delta has been a real blessing, particularly from a spiritual standpoint, as I've been with medical professionals again," she said.

Dental hygienist Linda Cobb said one of the group's most memorable health fair sites was in a run-down building formerly used as a hardware store in Sledge.

The volunteers braved musty conditions in near-100-degree heat without air conditioning and conducted health screenings for about 70 adults and 24 children.

"One of the visitors told me she got out of her car and immediately saw what looked like a glow over the place," recalled Cobb, a Gordo, Ala., resident.

"She said she knew we were Christians because, even though we had been there all day and were sweaty, we had smiles on

our faces and appeared to enjoy working together."

Registered nurse Linda Chandler of Prattville, Ala., said the health fair in Sledge was a meaningful time for her due to the witnessing experience she had with a 20-year-old named David.

She and fellow Alabama nurse Schoola Humphrey of Mobile were amazed at how he listened intently before quickly grasping the simplicity of the gospel and praying to receive Christ.

"As with a lot of people elsewhere in the world, a lot of people in this area of Mississippi have grown up with a performance-based mindset," Chandler said.

"This mentality that they have to somehow earn a right relationship with God frustrates me."

Another registered nurse from Prattville, Elaine McAuley, said she hoped to take home the spirit of reconciliation she noticed in Mississippi among several churches.

"I had never experienced a prayer meeting like the one we went to on our first night in Clarksdale. That meeting set the tone for the entire week," McAuley said.

"It was a blessing to see and hear women and men of a vari-

ety of churches, ethnicities and cultures pour out their hearts to one another and share prayer.

"As we helped people of different cultures and socio-economic backgrounds at the health fairs, I felt like we were part of that reconciliation."

Amber Malatesta, a registered nurse from Northwest Mississippi Regional Medical Center in Clarksdale, applauded the willingness of volunteers to conduct health fairs in the Mississippi Delta region's rural communities.

She noted that many residents there don't have transportation means and must have health care brought to them.

Registered nurse Alice Ward of Mobile and pharmacist Marilyn Hinson of Heath Springs, S.C., said that during the May 27-30 health fairs in Mississippi, they saw the need for people to receive preventative health education.

"People all over the world think they have to take care of themselves, but they can't because they don't know how," Ward said, before Hinson reported that most of the people she helped at the Mississippi health fairs didn't understand the importance of family health history and how it affects them today.



## YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.  
(I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death.  
(I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you.  
(I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him.  
(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

## Baptist college settles suit

MT. VERNON, Ga (ABP) — Following months of negotiations and changes in its top leadership, a Georgia Baptist college has reached an out-of-court settlement with federal officials over claims the school misused federal scholarship funds.

Brewton-Parker College in Mt. Vernon, Ga., will repay \$4 million in federal funds over the next two years, The Christian Index, the Georgia Baptist news journal, reported May 21.

In exchange, the U. S. Department of Education will drop all claims in a lawsuit originally filed by a former employee.

In the suit, Martha Faw, former assistant financial-aid director, claimed Brewton-Parker administrators gave scholarships to unqualified students for at least 11 years. When she attempted to correct the problem, she was fired, she claimed.

The federal government joined Faw's suit last year. Faw, who stands to receive payments from a wrongful-termination settlement as well as her role as "whistle blower" in the larger federal suit, plans to donate more than \$200,000 to establish a scholarship fund, according to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

Lynn Holmes, the college's popular president, resigned last year. David Smith, a former administrator at Wayland Baptist University in Plainview, Texas, was named president on April 25.



## LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.  
Minister of Counseling  
First Church, Jackson

I am concerned about interracial dating and marriage. Are there Bible verses that can guide me?

There are really no Bible verses that deal specifically with this difficult issue. It is often cited that Moses married Zipporah (Ex. 2:21), a Cushite woman who was likely dark-skinned. King David's great-grandmother was the Moabite Ruth, wife of Boaz (Ruth 4:14-16). Being from Moab means Ruth was probably a dark-skinned woman. Deut. 7:3 is often used as a Bible passage that prohibits interracial marriage, but the verse actually prohibits the mixing of God's people with mates who practice other religions. Interracial couples considering marriage should be absolutely certain they are under the Lord's leadership. They shouldn't be taking such an important step just to spite their parents, to indulge a novel sexual attraction, or to challenge a cultural/societal taboo.

Christian premarital counseling is always a good idea, regardless of racial makeup.

I think it's intolerant to believe some people won't go to Heaven. If your God is a loving God, won't he accept everyone?

Of course he accepts everyone. He loves us so much that he allowed his only Son to be subjected to cruel death in order to save us from our sin. The question, therefore, is whether we will accept him. God allows each of us to choose to follow him, or to go our own way. God is not a year-round Santa Claus with free giveaways, but he is a loving Father who gives each of his children the opportunity to come to him by asking into their hearts his precious, sacrificed son — Jesus Christ. If you are not a Christian, ask a pastor or Christian friend how you can receive salvation through Jesus and begin a daily walk with God. Do it now; your eternal life depends on your decision.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.



## FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

### Why serve God?

Job 1:1-4; 8-11; 2:3-6; 3:1-3

By Nancie E. Simmons

Why serve God? The definition of "serve" in the Webster's dictionary is "to give the service and the respect due to a superior." We serve God because he is our superior or our "boss." As our "boss" he watches over us daily, knows everything that happens to us, helps us through problems, and assigns us tasks to complete his work. Today Job would have been considered a great employee. God had confidence in Job, and Job was loyal to God. Being loyal means one is faithful to a cause no matter what happens, in good times, in bad time, in worse times, or in dark times.

In good times. Job was a man having "good times." He had wealth, possessions, a big family, and was respected in his community. On the human scale of perfect with ten as the best, he would be a "10." One might say it is easiest to serve God when times are good. I believe that it is harder to serve God when times are good. We have all that we need so why do we need God? God wants us to include him in every activity no matter the significance. Remember he is our "boss," and bosses need to be consulted in the activities of the workplace.

In bad times. When times turn bad, God is usually the one

to whom we turn looking for comfort and answers. Remember, as our "boss" he has more knowledge on the subject than we do. Maybe these trials will teach us something, bring us back to God, uncover a new talent to use for his work, or lead others to know him. We will see his purpose when the time is right. We must continue to be loyal even when we do not understand why.

In Job's day a person was thought to be sinning against God if he was poor or without a large family. Today, some still think bad things happen because of something we have done. We think, "I had better be in church whenever possible or God's gonna get me!" God does not "get" anyone. Sin is not something that God created. Bad things happen because of the sin in our lives and the sin in our world.

I cannot imagine the pain in Job's losses. It puzzles me as to why God allowed these tests to take place. But who am I to question God's motives? God had great confidence in Job, and Job continued to praise God. How much confidence does God have in us?

In worse times. Even when Job was covered with sores he remained loyal. The way we feel sometimes affects the way we handle problems. As a teacher it is easier for me to handle discipline problems on days when I feel my best. On days when I am not my best, it is harder for me to remain patient with those that require more attention. With God as my "boss" I know I need to turn to him when I face problems in my life.

In dark times. Just when one thinks that the storms of life are over, another wind comes and blows us back down. When bad things continue to happen to

people it sometimes causes us to doubt, to ask questions, or to blame God. Job even questioned why he had been born, but he still did not blame God for his situation. Even though it is a hard thing to do, we must blindly trust God's plan and purpose.

I have been very blessed in my life not to have faced many tragedies. I thank and praise God for this blessing, but I must watch myself and not forget him in these good times. As my "boss" he has blessed me with many undeserved opportunities so I might be a part of his work. It is an everyday struggle to be a model worker as Job was, but this is our assignment while we are here on this earth. I pray that you will serve God in bad times but especially in good times.

Simmons teaches music at Harper McCaughan Elementary and is a member of First Church, Gulfport.



Simmons

## LIFE AND WORK

### An unforgiving spirit

Luke 15:25-30; 17:3-4; Ephesians 4:32-5:2

By Kevin Hand

"KNOW WHEN TO LET GO." I realized the importance of this principle when I first learned to water ski. On that fateful day, the boat pulled me out of the water and everything seemed to be okay. That is, until I lost my skis. Ski-less and scared, I continued my death-grip hold on the ski rope. Big mistake. After being drug underwater for several yards and about to drown, I made a decision. I would let go of the rope.

Some people refuse to forgive. They hold onto their hurts and drown in a sea of bitterness and resentment. They choose not to let go of real or imagined offenses against them. Because

they refuse to forgive, they are slaves to the past, chained to yesterday. In addition, the self-imposed weight of their unforgiving spirit impedes their spiritual progress. Therefore, Christians must learn to forgive. We must know when to let go of the grudges we bear and unforgiveness we harbor.

Portrait of an unforgiving spirit (Luke 15:25-30). One day, a faithful son returned home from work. He heard the sounds of music and dancing coming from the house. Something was up . . . a party! The son quickly found out that his family was celebrating the return home of his rebellious,

presumptuous, younger brother. The faithful son became enraged and refused to join in the festivities. He bitterly protested his father's actions. After all, it was not fair that an extravagant reception be given for a wild and wasteful son, while the loyal service of a faithful son went unrewarded.

While the main character of Jesus' parable was not the elder son, we are able to catch a glimpse of someone with an unforgiving spirit. Sometimes we are like the elder son. We feel mistreated by others and get angry. We allow our anger and resentment to turn into bitterness, and we refuse to forgive. We resist letting go.

Command to have a forgiving spirit (Luke 17:3-4). Jesus refutes any notion that forgiveness means simply glossing over wrongs, acting as if nothing

ever happened, or not holding people accountable. Instead, Christians are to confront people who have committed wrong so that the offenders may be forgiven. Rebuking a brother does not mean confronting a fellow believer in an arrogant, judgmental, or censorious spirit. The motive is love, and the purpose is to restore fellowship.

For Christians who would think there is a reasonable limit as to how much or how often we should forgive, Jesus says we are to extend unlimited forgiveness to people who have sinned against us.

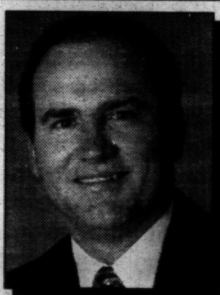
Jesus said that forgiveness is not optional. Yet, no one can force us to forgive. We must make that choice—sometimes a difficult choice. Perhaps that is why C. S. Lewis said, "Everyone says forgiveness is a lovely idea, until they have something to forgive." Nevertheless, Jesus commands us to forgive.

Overcoming an unforgiving spirit (Eph. 4:32-5:2). Paul instructed the believers in Ephesus to forgive each other "just as in Christ God forgave [them]" (v.32, NIV). We are to forgive others in the same way, manner, degree, and extent that God has forgiven us. We must remember that our forgiveness of others will affect God's forgiveness of us (Matt.6:14,15).

In setting the precedent for forgiveness, God has shown us that true forgiveness lets go (Ps.103:3,12). We are to forgive and forget rather than to hate and remember. With God's power, it is possible to overcome an unforgiving spirit.

Finally, we are to be "imitators of God" (5:1). We are to imitate God and follow Christ's model by having a lifestyle characterized by love. Love will exclude an unforgiving spirit.

Hand is pastor of First Church, Magee.



Hand

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### The holiness God expects

1 Peter 1:13-25

By William H. Sims, III

"Just one letter of the alphabet makes all the difference between us now," said a recently converted young woman to an unsaved friend. "You love the world," she said, "and I love the Word."

Truly, God demands his people to live a life holy unto his commandments. Holiness means a total separation from all that is impure, sinful, and morally deficient. Holiness is the character of God distinguished from all evil in the created universe."

Be ye holy, for I am holy" is a theme found in such places as Leviticus 11:44, 19:2, and 20:7. The great end of salvation is to produce character and conduct which conform to the holiness of God. As God's people, through

grace and the presence of the Holy Spirit, holiness is a powerful purpose in our lives.

The passage beginning at 1:13 through 2:10 is a treatment of holiness. Pagan religions of ancient times were often an excuse for vile indulgence in sensual pleasure. Peter urged the readers to be sober and to hope to the end of the grace which would appear at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Long for holy living (1:13). Peter urged that holiness penetrate every area of life. The "wherefore" in verse 13 called the readers to action because of their new life in Christ. The appeal would sound like, "Roll up your sleeves and go to work!"

Peter appealed to his readers

to be "sober," this meant disciplined behavior that would avoid any compromise. Walking with Jesus demands the narrow road. If we compromise on any decision, our witness and fellowship will diminish. The time is now, for God's people to stand firm on God's Holy Word, and live the word.

The strongest testimony for any Christian is standing firm in any situation. Firmness comes not from convenience, but conviction. Conviction from pleasing God not man.

Live a holy life (1:14-21). Peter challenged his readers to demonstrate a holy lifestyle by practicing obedience. Obedience flows through our life, when we acknowledge Jesus as the dominant power in our life. As a child, I obeyed my parents because of love. As a child of the King, we obey because of Calvary. Peter warned that obedience affects the entire lifestyle of the believer. Total obedience should block out any

room for Satan. Peter's reference in verse 16 is to Leviticus 11:44-45, and to God who has shown himself as true and the only Holy One.

Peter's appeal in verse 17 was that calling on God as Father allowed no excuse for careless living. A proper reverence or "fear" toward God would produce obedience to him. The readers needed to know that God impartially judges believers. God does not have favorites. No one will be excused for any reason of disobedience. The believer's power for obedience comes from the priceless power of the blood of Jesus. Peter described Christ as a lamb "without blemish."

Love other Christians (1:22-25). God's people loving one another is truly one of our greatest testimonies. When we love each other, revival starts and the fellowship never dies. Nothing should divide God's people in receiving and extending the love of Jesus. Love will solve any problem, settle any dispute, and strengthen any relationship.

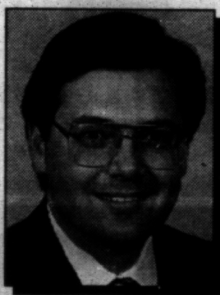
The readers of the epistle had the power to love based on their souls being purified. The word purified suggests personal growth in all areas of the believer. Peter's foundation for this sincere love was based on the believer being born again.

When people are born again, love has no limits, knows no color, and invites all to join the eternal family of God. Peter quoted Isaiah 40:6-8 to strengthen this demand to live a life of holiness and love.

Following Christ demands a specific lifestyle of holiness and love. The holiness reflects the very character of God, and this genuine love reflects the conduct of his children. What the world needs to see is a devout believer daily living for Jesus. When this occurs our world will know that Jesus does make the difference.

May our daily prayer be that Jesus find us faithful in obedience to holy living.

Sims is pastor of First Church, Pontotoc.

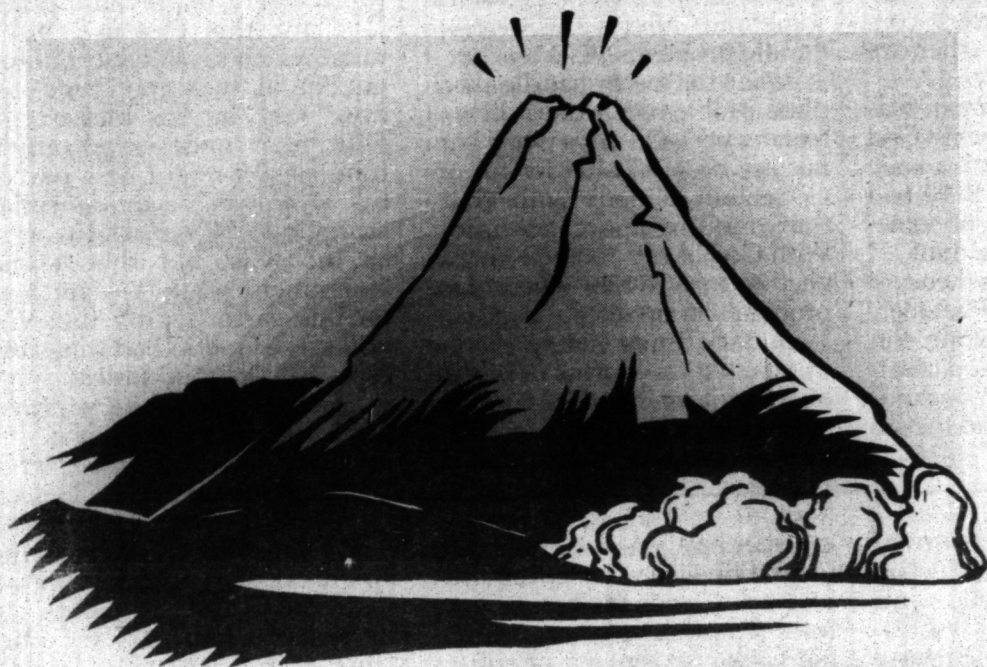


Sims



# Experts reconsider geologic explanations

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP) — Though secular geologists do not concede the Genesis flood occurred, growing numbers of scientists believe geologic wonders such as the Grand Canyon formed from a catastrophic event and much more rapidly than the millions of years previously thought, geologist John Morris told an audience at Oklahoma City's Heritage Baptist Church May 24.



Morris, president of the Institute for Creation Research in San Diego, lamented, however, educators have been slower to accept such possibilities than most scientists.

"We're winning — except for the millions of schoolkids who are being indoctrinated into this wrong (evolutionary) way of thinking," said Morris, who holds both master's and doctoral degrees in geological engineering from the University of Oklahoma.

Traditionally, most geologists have studied the Earth through the principle of "uniformity," which views the past strictly on what is visible in the present, Morris explained.

The Bible, however, teaches what Morris refers to as "catastrophism" — that throughout history God-induced catastrophes such as the flood have greatly altered the Earth.

Using a uniformitarian model, geologists taught the Colorado River carved the Grand Canyon from millions of years of water erosion.

After studying the geological effects of Mount St. Helens' volcanic eruption in 1980, scientists are rethinking traditional theories, Morris said.

"They're saying, 'No, that river would never carve the Grand Canyon, but something catastrophic and very recent.'"

For several months leading up to Mount St. Helens' eruption, hundreds of scientists gathered in Washington State, waiting for the volcano to blow.

When it did, four billion cubic yards of glacier water, lava, rock, and debris rolled downward at 90 miles per hour and deposited, like layers of pancake batter 600 feet thick and as far as 20 miles away, Morris said.

During nine hours of eruptions, 150 square miles of forest were devastated. More than 50 people died.

Searing heat mixed with water and volcanic gases created massive steam explosions from beneath the layered debris, creating what later became canyons, or "steam pits," as Morris called them.

These canyons, Morris said, mirror what geologists have seen in rock formations worldwide, including the Grand Canyon.

Fossilized plants, trees, animals and ocean life are visible in layer after layer of rock. Just five years after the eruption, Morris said he observed that layers of sandy deposits had hardened to sandstone.

"In one afternoon, we got to see what scientists believed took millions and millions of years of unobserved history to form."

Because of the large scientific presence at Mount St. Helens, "there's no question what happened here. It's a question of how to apply it," Morris noted.

"Mount St. Helens caused the field of geology to become more catastrophic in its view. Evolutionists started to realize that catastrophic mud flows may have laid down the layers in the Grand Canyon."

Another thing Mount St. Helens provided for creationists such as Morris was a small-scale view of what might have happened to the Earth during and after the flood.

Morris stated when "all the fountains of the great deep" were opened up, as mentioned in Genesis 7:11, oceanic volcanoes and earthquakes pushed huge amounts of water and debris over land at incredible force.

"When you think of Noah's flood, think of massive underwater mud flows — incredible dynamics beyond our comprehension," he said.

What resulted, among other things, Morris believes, is the Grand Canyon ("a whole big stack of pancakes over a mile thick") where clamshells, fish, and ocean-floor sediment are embedded in rock layers.

"Did anybody see the Grand Canyon form? (Creationists) see the same evidence, yet we know great amounts of water came through (the canyon) in a short period," he pointed out.

Mount St. Helens also provided ammu-

nition against what Morris called "the classic evolutionary argument against the Bible" — Specimen Ridge at Yellowstone National Park.

At Specimen Ridge, petrified forests are found standing upright (in growth position but not growth location) in rock formations at various elevations.

Previously, scientists had theorized the petrified trees were from various time periods — the higher the rock layer in which the petrified tree was embedded, the more recent the era.

Since the layers in which these hardened trees are found took millions of years to form, evolutionists argued, the Bible couldn't possibly be accurate in calculating the Earth's age at a few thousand years.

At Mount St. Helens, hundreds of trees were found floating upright through the volcanic sludge with enough of their root systems still in place to keep them from toppling over — a striking similarity to the trees at Specimen Ridge.

Morris said the massive volcanic flow at Mount St. Helens lifted the trees from their deepest roots and carried them miles from their growth locations.

He theorizes the trees at Specimen Ridge landed there after underwater mudslides carried them during the flood.

In fact, Morris said, after the National Park Service finally allowed a geological team to study the tree rings at Specimen Ridge, they found evidence the trees were the same age and had experienced the same weather patterns at the same time.

"These trees grew together," he said.

The National Park Service, Morris noted, has even removed markers that explained to visitors that the trees' ages differed by eras.

"The point is, God's Word is true and we can trust it — even when we talk about ancient history," he stressed.

## South African talks generate hope

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (BP) — South African Baptists still bruised by apartheid continue to move toward a level of unity that promises to make them a powerhouse in evangelizing the rest of the continent.

During a forum in Colesberg, South Africa, in May, delegates from the formerly white-dominated Baptist Union and black-dominated Baptist Convention decided to put the past behind them and reconcile differences.

A joining of forces would give South Africans a powerful platform from which to work, said Bryan Houser, a missionary with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board (IMB). IMB missionaries have worked across racial lines and with various Baptist groups — including the convention and union — even during the most tense days of apartheid.

"It's been a beautiful thing the way God has been moving," said IMB missionary John Gordy, who has worked in South Africa since 1990 and is now an associate director for missions strategy for the region.

"If the Baptist union and Baptist convention can reconcile — I mean true reconciliation — what does that say for any Baptist group in the world?" Gordy continued. "There's no deeper bitterness or hatred or hurt in the world. You can imagine through the apartheid years what those people experienced."

Both groups are seeking to gain support for unity from local churches and associations. First, they say they plan to help church members and local pastors deal with issues of past hurts and bitterness, just like they did in Colesburg.

Leaders and grassroots Baptists have yet to work through the more practical issues, also, such as one South African society as a whole faces now: how — or whether — to make restitution for property that apartheid gave whites the legal right to take from blacks.

Apartheid was a social system set up by South Africa in 1948 to deal with the racial struggle that emerged as the country became a world power. The policy preferred whites over blacks, whom the government often moved out of their homes and into impoverished but self-governing communities.

The Baptist groups also face issues of philosophy and theology. In some convention churches, years of oppression spawned what some Baptists in the union saw as liberation theology, a philosophy that justifies militancy to free people from social, economic, and political oppression.

At the most recent meeting, "a time of sharing deep hurts, anger and bitterness took place," the joint statement said. "Much was shared about our historic background which brought us to this time. Careful reflection took place over the hurt inflicted by both sides upon each other."

"God clearly moved in our midst as brothers and sisters forgave each other and were reconciled to one another."

## Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
copyright 1998

IMZ KUHO DPUJIM MUJ  
IU OZKRYZH IMZ LUOKW  
UGI UB IZCEINIRUPX,  
NPO IU HZXZHYZ IMZ  
GPVGXI GPIU IMZ ONW  
UB VGOLCZPI IU TZ  
EGPRXMZO.

XZAUPU EZIZH IJU: PRPZ

Clue: M = H

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: First John Five Two.